

Fire Department, Center Pigeon Volunteer Fire Department, Lake Logan Fire Department, Enka/Candler Fire Department, Haywood County Rescue Squad, Haywood County EMS, Blue Ridge Paper Emergency Response Team and Clyde Police Department.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA STAFF OF SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of men and women who have served over the past 26 years as staff for Senator TOM DASCHLE in the State of South Dakota. I join my colleagues in providing the most heartfelt appreciation for the public service career of Senator DASCHLE and that appreciation extends to the work of his South Dakota staff.

The people of South Dakota have benefitted greatly over the years from the work of Senator DASCHLE's staff. These men and women worked tirelessly behind the scenes on behalf of South Dakota constituents. They served as the eyes and ears for Senator DASCHLE, maintaining contacts in South Dakota communities, attending meetings on projects and sitting down with individual constituents to discuss matters of importance.

Some of Senator DASCHLE's staff provided over two decades of dedicated service to the people of South Dakota. Their long hours of service, many of them spent driving on country roads, sitting in coffee shops or walking through drought-stricken corn and wheat fields, underscored Senator DASCHLE's commitment to serve the people of South Dakota.

Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff truly reflect the tireless work ethic, dedication, and professionalism that he has exemplified to all the citizens of our state. Whether attending economic development outreach meetings, sacrificing holidays and weekends to travel with Senator DASCHLE across South Dakota, or tending to the many casework issues facing our constituents, Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff has done a superb job.

It is my hope that these valued members of Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff recognize the importance of their work and the great appreciation that many in South Dakota hold for them for their great service.

Senator DASCHLE's current South Dakota staff includes:

Beth Smith, Betty Daschle, Jody Jordan, Maeve King, and Virginia Newquist in the Aberdeen office; Ace Crawford, Armon Gaddy, Dorothy Christensen, Jackie Heier, Georgeann Johnson, Rose Larson, and Sheila Lane in the Rapid City office; Bill Idema, Gene Dwyer, Jeff Wilka, Jenn Dolan, Mark Gerhardt, Mary Peters, Michele Seaton, Nicole Deak, Stephanie Devitt, Stephanie Koster Hoyme, Steve Dick, and Steve Erpenbach, Senator DASCHLE's State director, in the Sioux Falls office.

The work of Senator DASCHLE and his staff will be remembered by South Dakotans for many years to come. I want to thank them for their work and service and wish them all the very best.

HONORING THE WASHINGTON STAFF OF SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of men and women who have served over the past 26 years as staff for Senator TOM DASCHLE here in Washington, both in his personal office and those who served him as Democratic leader in the Senate for the past 10 years. Every member of the Senate understands that our success rests, in part, with the men and women we choose to work with us on a daily basis in our offices. I join my colleagues in providing the most heartfelt appreciation for the public service career of Senator DASCHLE and that appreciation extends to the extraordinary work of his staff here in Washington.

The people of South Dakota, members of the Senate Democratic Caucus, and the institution of the Senate have benefitted greatly over the years from the hard work and dedication of Senator DASCHLE's staff. These men and women worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Whether it be his personal staff or his leadership staff, every single person has been dedicated to making our State a better place to live, and to making our Nation safe and secure.

Some of Senator DASCHLE's staff provided over two decades of dedicated service to the people of South Dakota and came with him to join his leadership staff. Their long hours of service underscored Senator DASCHLE's commitment to lead our caucus and to serve the people of South Dakota and this Nation unselfishly. Senator DASCHLE's staff truly reflect the tireless work ethic, dedication, and professionalism that he has exemplified to all the citizens of our State.

While each and every member of Senator DASCHLE's staff is dedicated, committed, and hard working, I think three long-serving members of his Washington staff should be recognized separately. Those senior staff members are Pete Rouse, who served in Senator DASCHLE's leadership office as chief of staff, Nancy Erickson, his deputy chief of staff in the Capitol, and Laura Petrou, the chief of staff in his personal office. All three of these dedicated individuals served the State of South Dakota and the Senate Democratic Caucus unselfishly and with distinction.

It is my hope that all of these valued members of Senator DASCHLE's staff recognize the importance of their work and the great appreciation that many in South Dakota hold for them for their great service.

Senator DASCHLE's current personal and leadership staff in Washington includes: Aaron Fischbach, Amber

Danter, Bart Chilton, Brad Wolters, Brendan Hilley, Brian Hanafin, Chris Bois, Chris VandeVenter, Chris Wagner, Christiana Gallagher, Chuck Marr, Cindy Harris, Clint Highfill, Danny Franklin, Darcell Savage, Denis McDonough, Grant Leslie, Jane Loewenson, Jeff Nussbaum, Jennifer Duck, Jeri Thomson, Jessica Leonard, Jessica Scheufele, Jim Oleske, Joan Huffer, Jody Bennett, Jonathon Lehman, Kate Knudson, Kate Leone, Kelly Fado, Lara Birkes, Larkin Barker, Laura Petrou, Lisa Thimjon, Liz Dahan, Mark Childress, Matthew Varilek, Michelle Singer, Molly Rowley, Nancy Erickson, Nancy Hogan, Nick Bauer, Nick Papas, Pat Griffin, Pat Sarcone, Pete Rouse, Phil Schilliro, Phillip Assmus, Randy DeValck, Reid Cherlin, Sam Mitchell, Sarah Feinberg, Ted Miller, Tim Mitrovich, Todd Webster, Tom McIntyre, and Wizipan Garriott.

The work of Senator DASCHLE and his staff will be remembered by South Dakotans, and all the Senators and staff who have served with them, for many years to come. I want to thank them for their work and service and wish them all the very best.

SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to submit the text of the attached resolution by the South Dakota Farmers Union commemorating 26 years of service by United States Senator THOMAS A. DASCHLE.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING 26 YEARS OF SERVICE BY UNITED STATES SENATOR THOMAS A. DASCHLE

Whereas, Senator TOM DASCHLE has distinguished himself as more than a reliable friend to South Dakota Farmers Union and the cause of family-based agriculture, but more so as a true hero to our cause; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE performed his duties faithfully to better the lives and opportunities of all South Dakotans, and conducted exemplary public service to South Dakotans with the assistance of his highly resourceful, talented and dedicated staff in his offices in Washington, D.C., Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE championed the cause of ethanol since his first campaign for the U.S. Congress, and is chiefly responsible for its emergence as America's answer to energy independence because of his relentless pursuit of government support for its production and marketing; and

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE earned his reputation as America's most important Member of Congress for the advancement of legislation important to South Dakota Farmers Union, the National Farmers Union and family-based agriculture because of his sincere interest in promoting America's rural economy and because of his generous nature and approachability to all citizens seeking his assistance in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE wisely used his influence and leadership powers to the benefit of South Dakota, resulting in unprecedented cooperation from urban states to help